

to begin at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this oversight hearing is to review S. 745, a bill to require the National Park Service to eradicate brucellosis afflicting the bison in Yellowstone National Park; S. 796 and H.R. 238, a bill to provide for the protection of wild horses within the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, MO, and prohibit the removal of such horses; and S. 1451, a bill to authorize an agreement between the Secretary of the Interior and a State providing for the continued operation by State employees of national parks in the State during any period in which the National Park Service is unable to maintain the normal level of park operations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

FAITH IN ACTION

• Mr. COHEN. Mr. President, I rise today to take a moment to praise a worthy nonprofit organization that is having a real impact on four communities in my home State of Maine. The organization is Faith in Action, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that in 1993 began providing technical assistance and startup grants to help develop interfaith volunteer projects that focus on helping those in need of care from the community.

During the first 2 years of the program, Faith in Action limited its grants to faith coalitions—churches, temples, and synagogues—that wanted to begin volunteer care giving projects within their community. A total of 800 such projects will be funded over 4 years of this initiative. In 1995, Faith In Action expanded its criteria, and now encourages health and social service agencies to join with congregations to develop new projects. Each approved coalition is awarded a \$25,000 grant to assist people in the community of all ages who have special needs.

Over the last year, these grants have helped fund important projects in four communities in Maine: Portland, Bangor, Richmond, and Lubec. In Bangor, two Faith in Action programs are up and running, providing the frail elderly residents in and around that city with a variety of assistance. Developed by St. Joseph Healthcare, in conjunction with area churches and synagogues, the project assesses the needs of elderly residents, particularly improving their access to quality health care. Volunteers provide transportation, home visits, help in meal preparation, light housekeeping or repairs in the home, and other services to assist the elderly who want to maintain some independence, but cannot do everything for themselves.

A similar project is starting up in the small town of Richmond, where the grant money is being used to assist the homebound elderly with transpor-

tation, companionship, and other services. A new facility has opened in that town for those elderly residents who need some living assistance, but do not qualify for a nursing home. Some of the Faith in Action funds went toward the purchase of a van to help these residents get to and from the grocery store, pharmacy, and other errands. A grant in Portland is targeted for persons who have acquired brain injuries and will go toward meeting the special needs of that population. And far up the coast, in the town of Lubec, a Faith in Action grant is being used to help meet the needs of children, adults, and seniors who are receiving hospice care.

The common link between all these projects, of course, is the members of the community reaching out to help those within their city or town who need their help. Faith in Action grants are rooted in voluntarism, and in linking the different religious communities within a city or town to work together to better serve the community. Only by working together can we solve some of the many problems within our cities and towns.

As chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, I am extremely aware of the daunting demographics that we face in the coming decades. More than 33 million Americans are over the age of 65 today—a number that will double in the coming three decades. We need to prepare now to meet the needs of today's aging population. Faith in Action is an organization with the vision to meet that goal, by encouraging the diverse members of a community to work with one another to address the special needs of individuals within that community. We need to encourage more and more people to get involved in Faith in Action volunteer projects, or in any volunteer project at all. We can do so much for each other, even if it is only for a few hours each month.

I congratulate the organizations in Maine that have already received Faith in Action grants and are putting them to such important use. I encourage other churches, synagogues, and temples in Maine and around the country to contact their local health and social service agencies and see if they can come up with a project that might serve the needs of the elderly or disabled in their community. Finally, I salute Faith in Action and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for their dedication to these projects—keep up the good work. •

REFORM IN RUSSIA

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, on February 5, Russia's Commission on Human Rights of the Russian Federation issued its report, "On the Observance of the Rights of Man and the Citizen in the Russian Federation." The report covers the years 1994-1995 and its conclusion is troubling: "the human rights situation in the Russian Federa-

tion has remained extremely unsatisfactory." The commission observed that constitutional guarantees for human rights and civil liberties "remain largely rhetorical" and that "in many aspects of civil and political rights and liberties there has been a distinct retreat from democratic achievements."

In support of its finding, the commission noted, *inter alia*: an increasing militarization of society; growth in the jurisdiction and powers of the security forces; the use of force to resolve domestic affairs, as in Chechnya; aggravation of racial and ethnic intolerance and discrimination; and the termination of state support for human rights organizations and offices. "Political expediency," the commission charges, "increasingly takes precedence over fundamental principles of law and respect for human rights and dignity," a cause "for grave concern."

Mr. President, only this past week the former head of the commission, Sergei Kovalev, was in Washington to testify before the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe [CSCE], also known as the Helsinki Commission and on which I have recently been appointed to serve. Mr. Kovalev was president of Russia's Commission on Human Rights from its inception in October 1993 until he submitted his resignation on January 23 of this year. The commission's report bears his stamp. His resignation was in protest over the very matters I have just noted: the fear that Russia's leaders are paying only lip service to democratic and economic reform and contemplating a return to the worst features of Soviet-era authoritarian rule.

Mr. Kovalev's testimony last week focused on the fighting in Chechnya, about which I will comment further below, but he has a long history of fighting for human rights, including as a political prisoner in the former Soviet Union. His voice is among the most respected in Russia; he maintained his seat in Russia's State Duma despite the resurgence of the Communists in December's parliamentary elections.

In his letter of resignation to President Yeltsin, Mr. Kovalev wrote:

Even though you continue to proclaim your undying devotion to democratic ideals, you have at first slowly, and then more and more abruptly, changed the course of your government policy. Now your government is trying to turn the country in a direction completely contrary to the one proclaimed in August 1991.

He then goes on to analyze President Yeltsin's swing toward authoritarianism. Mr. Kovalev questions President Yeltsin's commitment to the basic hallmarks of democracy, when he has "virtually halted judicial reform", and thwarted transparency and accountability with the creation of secret institutions and constant issuing of secret decrees.

Mr. President, in the past 6 years, we have witnessed amazing democratic